

Whitefish Trust Land Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 5, 2004
North Valley Hospital
6-8pm

Committee Members Attending

Alan Elm
Steve Lorch
Charlie Abell
Shirley Jacobsen
Greg Gunderson
Jeff Gilman
Sheila Bowan
David Greer
Paul McKenzie
Gary Hall
Donna Maddux
Danelle Reisch
Tyler Tourville
Leesa Valentino

Lisa Horowitz, DNRC Planner

Upon miscommunication of meeting time, Committee moved that all meetings in the future begin at 6pm.

Introduction of Lisa Horowitz: Lisa was hired as the Stillwater Planner for DNRC. Past experience includes work as Planning Director in Ketchum, Idaho in Seattle area with local governments, Neighborhood Plans, Comprehensive Plans, and knowledge of issues surrounding growth in resort towns.

Committee sets special meeting with Andy Lorenzi of the Sonoran Institute 7:30 am at Grouse Mountain Lodge.

Review of Minutes

Meeting minutes will be distributed to Committee one week in advance of the next meeting. Pages will be numbered.

Upon approval, minutes will be posted 2-3 days after the meeting.

Community needs more copies of Resource Document. DNRC will look into making more copies and putting the resource document online.

Clarification of spelling of Danelle Reisch's name.

Clarification of public comment suggestion that committee should be able to ask questions of public.

Motion to adopt minutes. Passes unanimously.

Draft schedule:

Initial goal to have the plan completed by May is an ambitious goal. Committee concerned of what will happen if they don't meet the deadline.

There is some concern that 2 public meetings may cut into work meetings.

March 18th meeting should be a work meeting and as always is a public meeting. Concerns that the work of the committee has just started the work. May not be ready for public hearing.

Suggestions:

- Have work session immediately before public meeting
- Take time to work out implementation tools to present to the public.

Lisa will revise the work plan to push back the schedule as to remain flexible with the progress of work by the Advisory Committee.

Draft Policy Discussion:

Concerns that the policies represent development and income, not representative of the values of the community.

Discomfort with the use of the word "should" as opposed to more definitive language that will establish a land-use policy. Need language clarification for "development" of land-use proposals. Committee felt uncomfortable with the emphasis on the word "development".

Desire to develop policies that preserve open space as well as create income.

Concern that wildlife and habitat being shortchanged by language in draft policies.

Committee began working through policy discussion with the Recreation and Open Space section, which was initially marked as Goal #3. Reworked language for bullet points. Moved 5th bullet point under the Recreation and Open Space category which encourages managing lands for recreational and conservation values to bullet point #1 in this section.

Other changes:

Move harvest prescription policy from Open Space to Land-Use section. Change language to management strategies instead of harvest prescriptions. Perhaps rewrite policy for fire management.

Strengthen language in the issue statement to put emphasis on open space. Overall Community values prefer open space to development. Reword into policy.

Add bullet points to emphasize wildlife under Land-Use section.

Lisa will revise policies per discussion and distribute. Changes that are made will be in strike and underline format.

Vote: To restructure goals as recreation and open space as Goal #1.

Motion passes.

Land Use will be Goal #2. Revenue will be Goal #3.

Related items:

Community members residing in study areas have come to Chamber with different ideas of implementation strategies for their neighborhoods. Input includes:

- Open space preservation and cluster development in Happy Valley
- Preserving North end of Whitefish Lake
- More control of future development
- Ideas of affordable housing/lease options on Trust Lands

Mapping ideas from Greg Gunderson

Greg presents Committee with an update from last meeting's discussion on producing GIS maps. GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems, which is a layering mapping system used to view data on a multi-dimensional level. Greg spoke with DNRC staff, and got the feeling that DNRC did not want to get into a deeper level of detail at this point in the process. Greg spoke with other Montana agencies to cross-reference available data that could be used to supplement mapping data in Resource Document. Parameters include water quality and watershed, fire regimes and fuel structures, wildlife corridors and habitat.

Richard Mannick, a friend and neighbor of Greg's, has volunteered 5-10 hours of his time to contribute his expertise on GIS mapping critical areas. Greg asks for approval for the committee.

Committee approves and expresses thanks to Greg for his efforts. Advisory Committee, DNRC will work together on this and be attentive to the sources of data in developing the maps.

New maps will be included in Resource Document.

Next meeting: February 19th, 2004 Thursday at 6 pm.

Danelle will be representing Donna.

Public Comment

David Greer: Forest Stand information is the information that DNRC has. Mapping should be done on a landscape basis, not just on Trust Lands.

Diane Conradi: Does DNRC expect to be compensated for non-development of the Trust Lands? Example: Non-development of highly sloped land that would contribute to degradation in water quality to Whitefish Lake?

Department replies that they would be compensated.

Section 9 of the Constitution which emphasizes the importance of protecting the environment mention during public comment and from member of the Committee.

Committee wants clarification from the Department on this issue.

Some concern from Committee that they have not had ample time to convey their views on the Resource Document. Steve Lorch requests any changes to Resource Document from Committee be emailed or call him for further discussion.

Adjourned—8:50 pm